

Service Date: April 8, 2002

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE REGULATION
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

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IN THE MATTER OF the Application of)	UTILITY DIVISION
Mountain Water Company For Authority To)	
Establish Uniform Tariffs And Rate Structures)	DOCKET NO. D2001.12.158
For Its Missoula, East Missoula and Linda Vista)	ORDER NO. 6401a
Customers.)	

ORDER ON CONSOLIDATED MOTIONS

On December 3, 2002, Mountain Water Company (Mountain Water) filed with the Public Service Commission (PSC or Commission) an Application For Authority To Establish Uniform Tariffs And Rate Structures For Its Missoula, East Missoula, and Linda Vista Customers. Mountain Water requested the authority to establish uniform tariffs and rate structures for its Linda Vista and Missoula customers. Since that filing, Mountain Water has stated its intent to file a general rate increase.

On March 13, 2002, Mountain Water filed CONSOLIDATED MOTIONS: Motion To Suspend Procedural Schedule and Motion For Interim Billing Arrangement. Mountain Water currently contemplates making its biennial general rate case filing in mid to late April. Mountain Water requests the Commission to suspend the procedural schedule in this docket and later move to consolidate the two dockets after its general rate case filing.

In order to minimize future costs, approximately 50 Linda Vista residents have switched from a flat to a metered rate in anticipation of an increase in rates after restructuring of rates if they remain on a flat service. However, Mountain Water believes it may be cheaper for them to remain on flat service until the Linda Vista tariffs are actually eliminated. Mountain Water's tariffs do not allow a customer who has switched from flat to metered to return to flat rate service. Therefore, Mountain Water requests a Commission order allowing it to bill such customers, who so choose, at a flat rate service until the Linda Vista tariffs have been eliminated.

WHEREFORE, the Commission ORDERS the suspension of the Procedural Schedule pending the filing of Mountain Water's rate case at which time the Commission will issue

another Notice. Furthermore, the Commission grants an ORDER allowing Mountain Water to implement an interim billing arrangement for its Linda Vista Customers who so choose. The effect of this Order allows a Linda Vista Customer who has switched to a metered system to be billed at a flat rate, only, until the Linda Vista tariffs have been eliminated. Mountain Water must file tariffs in compliance with this Order.

Done and Dated this 2nd day of April, 2002, by a vote of 5 to 0.

BY ORDER OF THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

GARY FELAND, Chairman

JAY STOVALL, Vice Chairman

BOB ANDERSON, Commissioner

MATT BRAINARD, Commissioner

BOB ROWE, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Rhonda J. Simmons
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)

NOTE: Any interested party may request the Commission to reconsider this decision. A motion to reconsider must be filed within ten (10) days. See 38.2.4806, ARM.